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EPPING URBAN—HARLOW URBAN

AND

EPPING AND ONGAR RURAL

COMBINED DISTRICTS

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Incorporating the Reports of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

For the Year 1956.

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AND  
EPPING & ONGAR RURAL  
COMBINED DISTRICTS

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# PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES

as at 31st December, 1956

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## EPPING URBAN DISTRICT

Chairman: Councillor L. B. FOSKETT.

### Members

Cllr. F. R. HUTTON (ex officio)

Cllr. Mrs. W. DEVONALD

" L. R. BARKER

" C. F. LONG.

Cllr. C. S. TOSELAND.

## HARLOW URBAN DISTRICT

Chairman: Councillor F. J. JAMES, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: " Mrs. S. ANDERSON.

### Members

Cllr. G. L. EASTEAL (ex officio)

Cllr. Mrs. E. DRUCE.

" D. L. ANDERSON.

" Mrs. B. D. LOW.

## EPPING & ONGAR RURAL DISTRICT

Chairman: Councillor R. TORRANCE.

Vice-Chairman: " Lt.Col. K. F. MAY, O.B.E.

### Members

Cllr. A. F. READER (ex officio)

Cllr. S. A. PAYNE.

" Mrs. C. M. DOYLE.

" G. C. PADFIELD (ex officio)

" J. H. E. EVANS.

" L. D. G. RICHINGS.

" Mrs. H. E. HOWARD.

" E. G. ROAST.

" E. W. MARSH.

" J. S. STEGGLES.

" R. PADFIELD.

" J. W. STEVENS.

" H. G. WATERMAN.

" J. R. WOOLLARD.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

H. FRANKS, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. (Acting until 12.2.56.)  
I. ASH, M.D., D.P.H. From 13.2.56.

Office:- 209, High Street, Epping, Essex.

Secretary:- Mrs. I. M. Stock (From 1.1.56. to 11.3.56.)  
Miss G. M. Williams (From 12.3.56. to 31.10.56.)  
Mrs. V. Lemon (From 1.11.56.)

### PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

#### EPPING URBAN DISTRICT

Hawthorn Lodge, 91, High Street, Epping.

Surveyor and Public Health  
Inspector.

H. J. MEAD, M.A.P.H.I., F.I.A.S., M.R.S.H.

Assistant Surveyor and  
Public Health Inspector.

M. PERRY.

Clerk.

Mrs. M. S. FARNSWORTH.

#### HARLOW URBAN DISTRICT

Netteswell Hall, Harlow, Essex.

Chief Public Health  
Inspector.

H. J. HEELEY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.  
Certificate of Sanitary Inspectors' Examination  
Board. Royal Sanitary Institute (Meat and Other  
Foods) Certificate.  
Diploma in Practical Sanitary Science. London.

Additional Public Health  
Inspector.

S. A. EADE., M.A.P.H.I.  
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute  
and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination  
Board. Royal Sanitary Institute (Meat and Other  
Foods) Certificate.  
Certificate in Sanitary Science. Royal Sanitary  
Institute.  
Diploma in Hygiene. Royal Institute of Public  
Health and Hygiene.

Chief Clerk.

Miss A. E. A. ROTHWELL.

Clerk.

Miss R. L. BOSANQUET.

EPPING & ONGAR RURAL DISTRICT

209, High Street, Epping. Essex.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

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Foods) Certificate.  
Certificate in Sanitary Science, Royal  
Sanitary Institute.

R. F. S. MUSGRAVE., M.A.P.H.I.  
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute  
and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination  
Board.  
Royal Society of Health (Meat and Other  
Foods) Certificate.

Chief Clerk.

T. D. BLYTH.

Clerks.

Mrs. G. B. CURTIS.  
Miss G. M. WILLIAMS (From 1.11.56.)

To the Chairmen and Members of the Councils of the  
Epping Urban District, the Harlow Urban District and  
the Epping & Ongar Rural District.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my second Annual Report on the health of the Combined Districts in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Unlike the preceding report which covered a period prior to my present appointment and, therefore, related events of which I had no first-hand knowledge, this report deals with matters most of which have arisen since my taking office.

In order to make the Annual Report more easily readable without at the same time sacrificing any of the tables and other statistical information I have given it a new form. Section A. contains a broad survey of the health in the three districts and an analysis and interpretation of some of the statistical material. Section B. deals with the health services administered by the County Council and with the general provision of medical services. Finally in Section C. detailed statistical and other information is given for each district separately.

As in the previous reports the Public Health Inspectors of the three districts have again contributed an account of the sanitary circumstances and of inspections carried out during the year. To them I wish to express my appreciation of their work and co-operation. I am also indebted to other officers of the three authorities and to the Area Medical Officers for the information which they have supplied. Finally I want to thank the members of the Councils for showing interest in public health matters and for giving me support in my work.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

I. ASH., M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

S E C T I O N      A

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## THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

In 1956 the Society of Medical Officers of Health celebrated its first centenary. It may, therefore, be appropriate to start this Annual Report with some brief reflections upon the present position and duties of the Medical Officer of Health.

Until the turn of the century he had to devote most of his time and energy to the improvement of sanitary conditions. Later on, as this had been substantially accomplished and as the knowledge of factors, other than environmental, which cause physical or mental ill-health had further progressed, the Medical Officer of Health gradually evolved from his former position of specialist in infectious diseases and adviser on water supplies, sewage disposal, housing and town planning to his present wider role of community physician and medical sociologist. Today it is fully recognised that in order to safeguard and promote the health of a community every individual in it must be treated as part of his or her physical and social environment both at home and at work. Unfortunately in local government an increasing tendency is noticeable of entirely separating the environmental from the personal health services. Some of the services affecting public health (water, sewerage, housing, etc.) have become so complex that their administration is rightly placed under officers with special training and knowledge. However, the duties of these officers are primarily of a technical nature and they lack the medical training necessary to assess the effect on physical and mental health of certain conditions with which they are confronted from time to time. Good houses and places of work, wholesome <sup>and</sup> water, efficient sewage and refuse disposal and clean food are, after all, not an end in themselves but merely a means to healthier living. It is for this reason that the Medical Officer of Health should be called to advise on the health aspects of all services irrespective of whether he is in administrative charge of them or not. This particular function of the Medical Officer of Health is stressed in the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, which state that he is "to inform himself as far as practicable respecting all matters affecting or likely to affect the public health in the district and be prepared to advise the Local Authority on any such matters". The emphasis is clearly on the word ALL and the Local Authority should, therefore, place the Medical Officer of Health in a position "to acquire an accurate knowledge of the influences, social environmental and industrial, which may operate prejudicially to the health of the area" (Ministry of Health Memorandum 1925)

On the whole the scope of the Medical Officer of Health's work has widened since the days when his Society came into being and public health started to become an organised community service. He is, of course, still concerned with HEALTH but whilst a hundred years ago this word meant only the preservation of life and physical integrity, today it is defined in the constitution of the World Health Organisation as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity".

The improvements in public health during the past hundred years must now be consolidated and extended. Many communicable diseases have not yet been conquered, and the larger size of modern factories and other places of work facilitates the spread of infections by bringing together under the same roof increasing numbers of people. Strains and stresses of modern living cause a higher incidence of psychosomatic diseases. Increasing mass production and processing of food and the extensive use of chemical additives expose the health of thousands of people to the risk of a possible fault in a single large food establishment. The growing use of mechanical devices in our daily lives is responsible for many accidents, which are rapidly becoming one of the major causes of death, particularly in the younger and older age groups. Our lungs are subjected to injury from atmospheric pollution, now augmented by the exhaust from a rising number of diesel-powered vehicles on the roads.

These are only a few of the present day concerns of the Medical Officer of Health. The changing pattern of life, however, creates new problems which must be faced. The care of the aged, preventive mental health and the prevention of hazards from radio-active materials used in industry are the three most important and pressing tasks of the immediate future.

In conclusion, after a hundred years of public health the prevention of illness still remains one of the main functions of the Medical Officer of Health, but the emphasis is gradually shifting towards the promotion of "positive" health.

#### ADMINISTRATION.

Considerable administrative difficulties were encountered from the start, and these persisted throughout most of the year.

Dr. H. Franks, who was acting Medical Officer of Health from September, 1955, became ill early in February, 1956, and was unable to hand over the department. The situation was further aggravated by the departure in March of Mrs. I. M. Stock, a very experienced secretary. Her successor stayed in the department only seven months and was replaced by the present holder of the post.

The premises occupied by the department were unsatisfactory in every respect and there was lack of furniture, reference books and other essentials. However, by the end of the year life became much easier when the offices were moved to more spacious rooms and it was possible to acquire most of the things needed for the efficient running of the department. All these improvements necessitated supplementary estimates which were submitted in June, 1956, and approved by the three District Councils.

Soon after the commencement of the appointment it became evident that the apportionment of time of four elevenths for County District work and seven elevenths for County work was quite unrealistic and that despite long working hours it was impossible to discharge satisfactorily all the duties connected with the appointment of Medical Officer of Health. The three District Councils and the County Medical Officer recognised this fact and at the end of the year a revision of the allocation of time to the County Council and the District Councils was pending.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Combined Districts shows an increase of 6370 on the corresponding figure for 1955. Harlow Urban District alone had 5170 more inhabitants. Of this increase 16.2% was due to an excess of births over deaths and the remainder to immigration. The population of Epping Urban District was larger by 560 and that of Epping & Ongar Rural District by 640. The excess of births over deaths in the Epping Urban District amounted to 9.6% of the total increase but in the Epping & Ongar Rural District it was 41.2%. These figures show that in the Epping Urban District most of the population increase was due to a proportionately large influx of immigrants, many of whom settled in the now completed Chingford Borough Council's Tower Estate. On the other hand the higher population figure of the Epping & Ongar Rural District was mainly due to natural increase.

The birth and death rates are expressed both as "crude" and "adjusted" rates, the latter derived by multiplying the crude rates by an appropriate comparability factor. This makes an approximate allowance for the difference in the sex and age distribution of the population of each of the three Districts, and of England and Wales as a whole, and is a rough method of standardisation. The adjusted birth and death rates for the three districts are, therefore, comparable with each other, with the rate for England and Wales and with similarly adjusted rates for any other district in the country.

It will be observed that the difference between the crude and adjusted rates for 1956 is in some cases very appreciable. This is because the comparability factors used are those recently issued by the Registrar General. They take account not only of boundary changes but also of rapid increases of the population which have materially affected its composition by sex and age groups.

From the figures given in the appropriate tables in Section C. of this report it will be seen that the adjusted birth rate for Epping Urban District is substantially the same as that for the whole of England and Wales whilst the rates for Harlow Urban District and Epping & Ongar Rural District are considerably higher. The crude rate for Harlow at 32.9 per 1,000 population is still one of the highest in the country.

Turning to the death rates it can be seen that the crude rate for Harlow is less than half that for England and Wales but the adjusted rate is a fraction higher than the national rate. The crude and adjusted rates for the other two districts do not differ much from each other and are lower than those for England and Wales.

All deaths of infants under one year of age in the Epping Urban District and the Epping and Ongar Rural District occurred during the first four weeks of life; the infant mortality rates are, therefore, the same as the neonatal mortality rates and in both districts they are considerably lower than the neonatal mortality rates for England and Wales. In Harlow 15 infants died

before reaching the age of one month and 8 between the age of one month and twelve months. The infant mortality rate is roughly the same as the national rate, but the neonatal mortality rate is slightly lower.

The stillbirth rates for Harlow and Epping & Ongar are lower than the national one. The Epping Urban District rate, however, is appreciably higher, but this is no doubt due to the small total number of births to which the six stillbirths are related.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH.

In the Combined Districts 542 deaths were recorded in 1956 (503 in 1955). Diseases of the heart accounted for 30.4% of all deaths (165 cases) as compared with 31.4% (158) in 1955. 17.9% of all deaths (96 cases) were due to malignant tumours (1955 - 89 cases = 17.7% of all deaths).

Analysing more closely these two most important causes of death some interesting facts emerge. Although mortality from all heart diseases except those involving coronary arteries has decreased since 1955

(1955: 83 deaths = 130.3 deaths per 100,000 population)  
(1956: 77 deaths = 109.9 deaths per 100,000 population)

deaths from coronary disease which is attributed to a rich diet and to strains and stresses of modern living have increased during the same period.

(1955: 75 deaths = 117.8 deaths per 100,000 population)  
(1956: 88 deaths = 125.6 deaths per 100,000 population)

The cancer figures are even more revealing. Mortality from all malignant tumours except those of lung and bronchus has slightly decreased.

(1955: 76 deaths = 119.3 deaths per 100,000 population)  
(1956: 74 deaths = 105.6 deaths per 100,000 population)

Deaths from cancer of lung and bronchus on the other hand show an increase of over 50% in twelve months.

(1955: 13 deaths = 20.4 deaths per 100,000 population)  
(1956: 22 deaths = 31.4 deaths per 100,000 population)

Analysing further the mortality figures for malignant neoplasms of lung and bronchus we see that the ratio of male to female deaths in 1956 was 11 : 1 (1955:- 6.5 : 1). In the Epping Urban District the number of deaths fell from three in 1955 to two in 1956 but in the Harlow Urban District it rose during the corresponding period from one to five (three of the deceased were old inhabitants of Harlow) and in the Epping & Ongar Rural District from nine to fourteen.

An attempt was made to investigate the smoking habits of the twenty two persons who had died of cancer of lung and bronchus in the three districts. The next of kin of 19 deceased were interviewed, the others had changed address and could not be found.

The following table shows the average daily number of cigarettes smoked by the persons who in 1956 died of cancer of lung and bronchus. Not a single non-smoker was found in this group, and all had been smokers for many years. Some, in addition to cigarettes, also smoked a pipe:-

<u>Age at death</u>	Number of people smoking a daily average of:			
	0-14	15-24	25 and over	Number unknown but said to be large.
45-55 ...	-	1	1	2
56-65 ...	-	2	2	1
66-75 ...	1	-	2	3
Over 75 ...	-	1	2	1

The above findings are not intended to confirm the association between cigarette smoking and cancer of lung and bronchus because there is already ample evidence to prove it. This modest investigation was undertaken in order to bring home the facts to those people in the three districts who for psychological reasons do not want to face the truth and deceive themselves into believing that what happens elsewhere to others cannot happen here to them.

#### COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

Large epidemics of killing diseases are now a matter of the past, but communicable diseases nevertheless still demand a large amount of the Medical Officer of Health's time and attention. Despite higher standards of living and improved housing and general sanitation the incidence of intestinal infections has been steadily increasing in this country during the past years. In addition, obscure virus diseases have recently made an appearance in epidemic form and although fortunately not serious they are a nuisance to the patients and the medical profession and, by causing loss of working days, have a damaging effect on the economy of the country.

The Combined Districts suffered a large outbreak of dysentery in the Spring of 1956, and an epidemic of vomiting with meningeal involvement in the last quarter of the year. Altogether 151 cases of Sonne dysentery were notified (Harlow U.D.107 - Epping & Ongar R.D. 41 - Epping U.D.3.) but it is known that this number is only a small proportion of the actual total because either patients with mild symptoms never consulted their doctors or the latter failed to notify many cases which appeared to them to be trivial. Nevertheless, there was some improvement in the case finding of intestinal infections in general. This was due to an arrangement made in March with the General Practitioners under which the Medical Officer of Health assumed responsibility for arranging laboratory examinations of specimens of stools not only of the patients but also of all home contacts.

The results as soon as available were notified to the General Practitioners and the persons concerned. This procedure, although imposing additional work on the Public Health Inspectors who had to collect the specimens and convey them to the laboratory, presented considerable advantages for everybody concerned. It relieved the busy General Practitioner of the task of collecting specimens and of arranging for their examination, and it led to the finding amongst the contacts of a number of symptomless carriers who otherwise would have escaped detection. Furthermore, it enabled the Medical Officer of Health to take without delay such preventive measures as were required under the various acts and regulations. Thus 53 children were excluded from school and notices under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953, were served on 6 food handlers.

Towards the end of the year trials were started with a new preparation for the treatment of dysentery. The drugs were supplied free by the makers, May & Baker Ltd, and were issued to a limited number of General Practitioners for use on their patients. Results of the treatment are not yet available.

Nineteen cases of food poisoning of which one was fatal (Harlow U.D.11. Epping & Ongar R.D.8.) were notified during 1956 as compared with 46 cases in the previous year. There were two minor outbreaks involving two and four persons respectively and thirteen single cases. The causative agents were identified as *Salmonella enteritidis* (1 case) *Salmonella typhi-murium* (5 cases including the fatal one) and coagulase positive staphylococci (4 cases). In nine cases the cause remained undetected.

One of the outbreaks of food poisoning was of some epidemiological interest. It concerned two families whose only common item of diet was brawn purchased from a local butcher. Other people, including the Chief Public Health Inspector, who had consumed this foodstuff, were not affected. Some of the brawn remained in the shop and the bacteriological examination of it showed the presence of staphylococci. During a visit to the shop to investigate it was noticed that the butcher's assistant had a flattened nose and that it was partially obstructed by a deflected septum. A swab was taken and staphylococci of the same phage type as those in the brawn were grown from it. The man was immediately excluded from work and had to undergo prolonged treatment before it was safe for him to resume an occupation involving the handling of food.

Early in October there was a sharp epidemic outbreak of a virus infection resembling Epidemic Nausea and Vomiting but with a proportion of cases exhibiting meningism and other symptoms of aseptic meningitis, simulating non-paralytic poliomyelitis. Harlow was hit first and hardest, but the infection also spread to the other districts though in a milder form. It is difficult to estimate the extent of the epidemic because the disease is relatively new and not notifiable. Moreover, in the great majority of cases the patients recovered within 24/48 hours without coming to the attention of either their family doctor or the Medical Officer of Health. However, from the available information it can be deduced that in Harlow alone there were several hundred cases, over 170 of which were reported by the schools. Fourteen patients were admitted to hospital. The outbreak was thoroughly investigated and a paper on it is pending publication in the medical press.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The annual revision of the tuberculosis register showed again how difficult it is to obtain accurate data for all cases. The Medical Officer of Health is dependent for information on so many sources (General Practitioners, four chest clinics serving the area, Medical Officers of Health and Chest Physicians for other areas) that some mistakes and omissions are inevitable. The register has now been brought up to date by the addition of cases which, though not new, did not previously appear in it. A few other cases were deleted because they had either recovered, died or left the district prior to 1956. For this reason comparison of all data with that of the previous year would be misleading except for newly notified cases which in 1956 numbered 30 (Epping U.D. 8 Harlow U.D. 14 and Epping & Ongar R.D. 8.) as compared with 29 in 1955. There was only one death in the three districts (a woman from Harlow) attributable to tuberculosis (1955: 2 deaths). Three other persons, although suffering from tuberculosis, died from other causes.

The proportion of all cases on the tuberculosis register to the population of the district was highest in Epping - 8.9 cases per 1,000 inhabitants (Harlow 6.0 cases per 1,000 inhabitants and Epping & Ongar Rural 4.1 cases per 1,000 inhabitants). The same applies to the new cases notified during the year which in Epping amounted to 1.0 per 1,000 inhabitants as against 0.5 per 1,000 inhabitants in Harlow and 0.2 per 1,000 inhabitants in Epping & Ongar. (Notification rate for England & Wales 0.8 per 1,000 population). This higher incidence of tuberculosis in Epping requires investigation, and the Mass Radiography Unit serving the area has been asked to visit Epping at the earliest opportunity in order to screen the whole population of the town.

Arrangements were made with the Chest Clinic in Epping which serves most of the area for a better exchange of information and closer co-operation in the investigation of the environmental and social conditions of all new cases and of those immigrating into the area.

B.C.G. vaccination continued to be offered by the Local Education Authority to school children aged between 13 and 14 years. The results for each district are given in Section E. of the report.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

Details of the sanitary circumstances are given separately for each district in Section C. of the report. The following are only brief comments on some special aspects of environmental hygiene.

### Housing.

There has been a considerable drop in the number of houses built by each of the three Councils as compared with 1955. In the Epping & Ongar Rural District, but not in the other two districts, there was a similar decline in private building. In Harlow the construction of dwellings by the Development Corporation and a private firm developing

an area in Tye Green proceeded at a satisfactory pace. Altogether in 1956, 1874 houses were built in the Combined Districts compared with 2128 houses in the previous year.

The Glen Faba and Riverfields Estate in the Epping & Ongar Rural District remains the biggest housing problem in the area, and is more fully dealt with on page 57. Here it will suffice to point out that it is difficult to imagine how in the 20th century in a civilised country a large group of people can be allowed to live under such primitive and insanitary conditions. The shack development is continuing unchecked, and unless the problem is tackled speedily and with energy it may become intractable.

Early in the year a procedure was agreed upon with the housing managers of the three Councils for the allocation of houses on medical grounds. Each application supported by a medical certificate is now examined by the Medical Officer of Health who, after inspection of the house, an interview with the applicant and often consultation with the general practitioner concerned, submits his recommendations. During the year under review forty four such applications were investigated (Epping Urban District 8 - Harlow Urban District 3 - Epping & Ongar Rural District 33).

#### Food.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which came into force on 1st January, 1956, have raised hopes of great improvements in the generally low standard of food hygiene in this country. The Public Health Inspectors have set out enthusiastically to instruct all food traders of the provisions of the Regulations and have carried out a large number of inspections in order to ensure that food premises comply with the requirements of the new law. This has already produced limited but encouraging results, though it must be realised that bad practices cannot be changed overnight and that the provision of, say, washbasins, is in itself of little value unless food handlers make it a habit to use them. It will take years of educating not only the food traders and handlers but the housewives as well before an appreciable improvement in food hygiene can be achieved.

#### Atmospheric Pollution.

The County Council had worked out a plan with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for the measurement of atmospheric pollution throughout the County, and in December, 1955, it submitted proposals to the three District Councils for the installation of certain instruments within their areas. These proposals were accepted by the Epping and Harlow Urban Districts in January, 1956, and by the Epping & Ongar Rural District in June, 1956. By the end of the year all necessary apparatus was on order and a deposit gauge had actually been installed in Harlow.

## PROBLEM FAMILIES.

In March, 1956, a Committee for the Co-ordination of Prevention of Break-up of Families was set up in Harlow. The initiative for its formation came from the Mark Hall and Netteswell Community Association and the organisation and functions followed the lines of the Ministry of Health Circular 27/54 of November, 1954.

The following persons served on the Committee:-

- Medical Officer of Health - Co-ordinating Officer.
- Health Visitors.
- Children's Officer.
- Probation Officers.
- National Assistance Board representative.
- N.S.P.C.C. Officer.
- Education Welfare Officers.
- Diocesan Moral Welfare Officer.
- Housing Officer - Harlow Development Corporation.
- Housing Assistant - Harlow Urban District Council.
- Secretary - Harlow Citizens' Advice Bureau.
- Legal Advice Centre representative.

As the case load was light the Committee met only once a quarter. During the year eight families were dealt with at the request of the Housing Assistant, Harlow U.D.C. (4 families), the Health Visitors (2 families) and the Legal Advice Centre (2 families). Thres of these families had some marital and financial difficulties but were not considered to be "problem families". Two others had in the course of the year improved to such an extent that supervision could be discontinued. In the case of the remaining three families the statutory and voluntary organisations whose representatives serve on the Committee continued to provide help and advice.

In the Epping Urban District one family was dealt with. It was a childless couple who lived in a ramshackle house which was extremely insanitary, structurally dangerous and generally unfit for human habitation. The woman was seriously ill and was kept by her husband a virtual prisoner in the house so that she could not receive any medical attention. A court order had to be obtained in order to gain admission to the premises and the woman was removed to hospital where she slowly recovered. The couple has since been re-housed by the Epping Urban District Council.

## CARE OF OLD PEOPLE.

Lack of time and resources did not allow a systematic survey of the medico-social needs of all the old people in the three districts. However, a number of cases were brought to the attention of the Medical Officer of Health by the Police, the National Assistance Board, the Housing Officers and private individuals. In each case it was found that the persons concerned were in need of care and attention, and satisfactory arrangements for this were made without recourse to the compulsory powers under Section

47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. Two old ladies suffering from moderate senile dementia presented a particularly difficult problem because they refused all help and their condition was not bad enough for either removal to suitable premises under the National Assistance Act or for certification under the Lunacy Acts.

#### HEALTH EDUCATION.

Lack of time and shortage of funds set a limit to what could be done in this field. During the year under review a modest programme of health education was undertaken, and the Medical Officer of Health gave talks to various organisations on vaccination against poliomyelitis (4 talks), the health problems of the school child (1 talk) and the work of the World Health Organisation (1 talk). This latter talk was followed by a film show and was given on the occasion of World Health Day.

In conjunction with the County Council three meetings on Home Safety were held for old people's organisations. Posters and leaflets on various subjects were also widely used for health education. Particular mention must be made of the effort to acquaint senior pupils of secondary schools with the danger of cigarette smoking in relation to cancer of the lung. Unfortunately the choice of material obtainable for the purpose was limited, and the leaflets distributed were not particularly suitable. The local press was used to warn the people of the dangers of bathing in polluted rivers and streams and to publish information about the work of the World Health Organisation.

The Harlow Urban District Council authorised the production of a Home Safety Handbook and arrangements were made with a firm specialising in this type of publication for the issue of the handbook towards the end of 1957.

#### MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF COUNCIL STAFF.

During the year fifty persons either already employed or about to be employed were medically examined for superannuation or sick pay scheme purposes. Details are given below:-

<u>Authority.</u>	<u>Number examined</u>	<u>Result of examination</u>		
		<u>Fit.</u>	<u>Not Fit</u>	<u>Decision deferred.</u>
Epping U.D.C. ...	13	12	1	-
Harlow U.D.C. ...	29	24	4	1
Epping & Ongar R.D.C.	8	8	-	-
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Total:-	<u>50</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>

## NEW PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION.

During the year under review the following new Acts of Parliament which have a direct or indirect bearing on public health received Royal Assent: -

Housing Subsidies Act, 1956  
Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956  
Clean Air Act, 1956.  
Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956.

In addition mention must be made of the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956, which, although not affecting public health, concerns officers whose main function is public health.

Without any doubt the Clean Air Act is the most important and far reaching legislation of the year and it is a matter for regret that so little attention and publicity has been given to it throughout the country. If the Local Authorities upon whom rests the onus of implementing the main provisions of this Act proceed with energy and determination it will in time rank amongst the great public health acts of this country. Having already secured the provision of wholesome water and reasonably clean food we may now look forward to a time when it will finally be possible to breathe clean air.

S E C T I O N      B

# I. The Health Services Administered by the Essex County Council.

Maternity and child welfare, immunisations, health visiting, domiciliary, midwifery and nursing, home help and the school health services continued to be provided by the County Council through the Area Health Sub-Committees and the Divisional Executives.

The following information was supplied by Dr. F. G. Brown and Dr. J. L. Miller Wood, Medical Officers for the Forest and Mid-Essex Areas and Divisions respectively:-

	<u>Epping Urban District</u>	<u>Harlow Urban District</u>	<u>Epping &amp; Ongar Rural District</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Ante-Natal Clinics.</u>				
(a) Ante-natal attendances.....	217	5130	256 )	574
(b) Post-natal attendances.....	-	134	7 )	
<u>Child Welfare Clinics.</u>				
Attendances:-				
Under 1 year.....	967	14224	3492 )	2692
1 - 5 years.....	879	4563	2796 )	
<u>Women's Welfare Clinics</u>				
Attendances.....	111	-	-	11
<u>Midwifery &amp; Home Nursing.</u>				
No. of cases attended by midwives:-				
(a) as midwives .....	48	414	210 )	9
(b) as maternity nurses.....	6	60	174 )	
No. of visits paid by home nurses.....	3975	7991	13779	257
<u>Health Visiting.</u>				
No. of visits made.....	1357	12873	6070	203
<u>Immunisations.</u>				
Smallpox .....	129	655	293	10
Revaccinations.....	13	87	73	1
Diphtheria.....	179	853	438	14
Booster doses.....	68	214	211	4
Whooping Cough.....	86	310	310	7
Booster doses.....	-	17	13	

Vaccination against poliomyelitis commenced in May and was confined to children born in May and November between the year 1947 and 1954. However, as a precautionary measure immunisations against the disease as well as against diphtheria and whooping cough were suspended during the summer months when the incidence of poliomyelitis is normally highest. Owing to shortage of vaccine and because of the limited time available only a very small proportion of the children in the three districts was vaccinated against poliomyelitis. The exact number is not yet available.

The County Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics continued to function satisfactorily and were on the whole well attended.

The school health service again played an important part in the prevention of illness amongst the children of the three districts. Routine medical inspections in the schools were carried out as in the previous years and cases requiring particular attention were dealt with in the school clinics. The rapid increase of the school population in Harlow necessitated the extension of some of the special services. The number of ophthalmic sessions was increased from two to three a month and of physiotherapy sessions from one to two a week. An orthoptic clinic was established in April.

Unfortunately other school health services were disrupted through staff difficulties. The speech therapist serving Harlow and the area of the former Epping Rural District resigned in May and was not replaced until several months later. Similarly the school dentist appointed to Harlow in March resigned four months later and another one has not yet been found.

B.C.G.vaccination was offered to school children between the age of thirteen and fourteen with the following results:-

	<u>No.to whom offered</u>	<u>No.given tuberculin test on receipt of parents' consent</u>	<u>No.who gave a positive reaction</u>	<u>No.vaccinated with B.C.G.</u>
Epping Urban District...	137	72	10 (13.88%)	59
Harlow Urban District...	208	150	22 (14.66%)	113
Epping & Ongar Rural District.....	-	-	-	-

In special cases recuperative holidays were provided and eight school children from the three districts were sent to convalescent homes.

## II. General Provision of Medical Services.

### General Practitioners.

The three districts are well served by General Practitioners with whom good relations were maintained throughout the year. The Nuffield Trust Health Centres in Harlow which house the General Practitioners as well as Local Authority Health Staff helped towards the close co-operation between the family doctors and the Medical Officer of Health.

### Hospitals.

St. Margarets Hospital, Epping, and to a much smaller degree the Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishops Stortford, have provided consultant and in-patient treatment for the population of the area. By the end of the year there was still no definite news about the proposed hospital for Harlow, and even now that the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board has given 1958 as the date for construction to start, many people of Harlow who for the past years have seen the building of the hospital continuously postponed and its proposed size reduced, are very sceptical and regard the whole project as a myth.

The Ongar War Memorial Hospital continued to function as a General Practitioners' Hospital despite serious staffing difficulties.

The good liaison between the hospitals and the Medical Officer of Health was further strengthened through his attendance at meetings of the Epping Hospital Group Medical Advisory Committee of which he is a member.

### Laboratory Services.

The facilities provided by the very helpful pathological department at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping, were extensively used for routine work. During the dysentery outbreak in the winter and spring of 1956 over 500 rectal swabs were submitted for culture. Later in the year the laboratory carried out examinations of stools, blood and nose and throat swabs of cases of aseptic meningitis investigated by the Medical Officer of Health.

Virus research and special identification of organisms responsible for food poisoning were carried out at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories were used for routine water examinations and other special tests.

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## EPPING URBAN DISTRICT

## I. Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

### General Data.

Area (in acres).....	1,488
Resident population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate).....	7,940
Number of occupied houses (mid-year).....	2,432
Number of houses per acre (average).....	1.6
Number of persons per acre (average).....	5.3
Number of persons per house (average).....	3.3
Rateable value (mid-year, 1956).....	£110,763
Product of a penny rate (financial year 1956/57).....	£450
The rate in the pound (financial year 1956/57).....	16/6d

Births

<u>Births</u>				M.	F.
(a) <u>Live Births</u>	...	...	Legitimate	64	66
			Illegitimate	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
			Total:-	<u>68</u>	<u>68</u>
Crude rate	...	...	per 1,000 population	17.1	
Adjusted rate.	...	"	"	15.9	
England and Wales	...	"	"	15.7	
(b) <u>Stillbirths</u>	...	...	Legitimate	2	3
			Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
			Total:-	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births				42.2	
" " " " " (England and Wales)				23.0	

Deaths

M. F.

(a) All ages ..... 47 35

Crude rate..... per 1,000 population. 10.3

Adjusted rate..... " " " 10.1

England and Wales..... " " " 11.7

(b) Infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate..... - -

Illegitimate..... 2 -

Total:- 2 -

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births..... 14.7

" " " England and Wales ..... 23.8

(c) Infants under 4 weeks of age

Legitimate..... - -

Illegitimate..... 2 -

Total:- 2 -

Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births..... 14.7

" " " England and Wales ..... 16.9

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes.....	47	35	82
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough.....	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8. Measles.....	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	2	-	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	5	5	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	1	1
16. Diabetes.....	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	9	7	16
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	13	3	16
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	-	1
20. Other heart disease.....	6	7	13
21. Other circulatory disease.....	-	2	2
22. Influenza.....	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia.....	1	1	2
24. Bronchitis.....	1	1	2
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system.....	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	1	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	3	2	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	1	1
34. All other accidents.....	1	-	1
35. Suicides.....	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-

## Communicable Diseases (except Tuberculosis)

	Notifications according to age groups												Incidence rate per 100,000 population		
													Epping	England & Wales	
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Ag- unknown			Total
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74.1
Whooping cough	1	1	4	3	4	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	352.6	206.8
Polionyelitis - paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.8
non - paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3
Measles	-	1	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	88.2	359.2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	37.8	109.7
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.6
Acute pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56.9
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.8
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24.7
Infective hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	12.6	

N.B. The incidence rates of infective hepatitis and puerperal pyrexia for England and Wales are not available.

Communicable Diseases - Tuberculosis

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of cases on the register at 1st January, 1956.....	21	20	3	1	45
Number of cases added to the register during 1956:-					
New cases.....	5	2	-	1	8
Inward transfers.....	8	14	1	-	23
Number of cases removed from the register during 1956:-					
Deaths.....	-	-	-	-	-
Outward transfers.....	2	3	-	-	5
Patients cured.....	-	-	-	-	-
Number of patients remaining on the register at 31.12.56.	32	33	4	2	71

Table showing the monthly number of new claims  
for sickness benefit submitted to the Epping Office of the  
Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance.

---

<u>Month</u>	<u>Claims</u>
January.....	256
February.....	209
March.....	140
April.....	124
May.....	123
June.....	102
July.....	112
August.....	83
September.....	101
October.....	161
November.....	139
December.....	184

## II. Sanitary Circumstances.

The Public Health Inspector reports as follows:-

### Water.

The quantity of water provided was adequate. Since the middle of the year, however, complaints have been received from local consumers about the discolouration of the supply. Samples were taken and it was found that the trouble was due to a high iron content of the water. In his report the analyst commented that the water could be "expected to give rise to complaints from domestic consumers".

Representations were made to the Herts & Essex Water Company who admitted receiving a number of complaints but these, they felt, were not serious enough to suggest a radical fault in the supply system. The Company also expressed the view that in most cases the complaints could be traced to disturbances in the supply caused either by emergency operations of valves or the cutting off of the mains in order to provide water to new building sites. They promised to carry out more frequent flushing of the mains which they believed would solve the problem.

The public were invited by the Council to submit particulars of their complaints both to the Company and to the Council who are keeping the position constantly under review.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

At both sewage works staff difficulties were experienced, and for long periods there were not enough men available to carry out the work, particularly in connection with the maintenance of the pumps. It was, in fact, necessary to engage the services of the manufacturers to overhaul the pumps at the Southern Outfall.

Trouble was also experienced from trespassers who not only damaged buildings but interfered with the working of the plant. In one case the opening of valves during the weekend was considered to be the direct cause of a bad sample of effluent taken from the Northern Outfall. Locking devices were installed and the assistance of the Police sought to prevent trespassing. Two further samples of effluent taken during the year proved satisfactory, which seemed to confirm that the initial trouble was in fact the result of activities of trespassers.

Samples taken by the Essex River Board of the effluent from the Southern Outfall proved satisfactory.

Three cases of obstruction in the main sewers were dealt

with during the year. In each of them the obstructions were thought to be due to builders' materials finding their way into the main pipes.

The heavy summer storms also caused sewers to overflow in two parts of the area. In the first, on the Crows Estate, the main soil sewer became surcharged on two or three occasions during heavy storms and caused a back flow into the gardens of some private houses. To remedy this difficulty one-way ball valves have been fitted which should close the house drains to any surcharge from the main sewers.

In the second case surface water only was involved. A remedy was found in connecting an overflow from a road gully into the house drainage system.

### Housing.

#### (a) General

Total number of occupied houses as at 31.12.56.....	2479
New houses erected by Epping Urban District Council....	22
" " " " Chingford Borough Council.....	42
" " " " private enterprise.....	90

The majority of the houses completed by the Council were let to families transferred from clearance areas, and the remainder were allocated in accordance with the points scheme. Amendments to the scheme in 1955 resulted in priority being given to those applicants who had been on the housing list for two years or more. An increased number of houses, flats and bungalows should become available during 1957 as a result of a large contract let during the current year.

Chingford Borough Council completed the development of their Tower Estate and commenced the erection of houses on their Beaconfield site.

#### (b) Repairs.

Intimation notices served .....	18
Statutory notices served.....	nil
Inspections carried out.....	75

#### (c) Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949)

Applications considered and approved..... 8

#### (d) Clearance Area Programme.

Families re-housed and properties left empty  
on undertakings from owners.....18

Further progress was made with the Council's five year programme prepared in 1954, about half of the properties included in it having now been cleared. Property owners continued to be co-operative and in no case was a formal objection lodged either with the Council or the Ministry. Undertakings not to re-let were given in all cases, and although no actual demolition was carried out it is known that arrangements have been made for this work to commence in 1957.

#### Public Conveniences.

As in previous years considerable wilful damage was caused to the conveniences and although the assistance of the Police was sought it was found impossible to apprehend the culprits or to prevent further damage.

During the severe weather experienced early in the year it became necessary to close the buildings for short periods of time.

#### Public Cleansing.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in recruiting staff, particularly drivers.

A new vehicle was delivered during the year and an old one was thoroughly reconditioned. A third vehicle is now kept for use in emergencies, and the position as far as lorries is concerned is much improved. Refuse is still disposed of at the Harlow tip by arrangement with the Harlow Urban District Council.

#### Inspection of Food.

##### (a) General

There were 78 food premises in the district comprising the following trades:-

Grocery and provisions .....	19
Confectioners.....	7
Canteens.....	9
Greengrocers.....	4
Licensed premises.....	15
Restaurants and cafes.....	11
Bakers and confectioners.....	3
Fish shops.....	4
Butchers.....	6

(b) Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Sale of ice cream.....	10
Fried fish shops.....	2
Preparation and sale of preserved meats.....	2

(c) Dairies.

Three premises in the District were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954.

(d) Inspections - Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56

These long awaited Regulations came into operation at the beginning of the year and were in most cases well received by the various trades concerned. The principal difficulties experienced were in connection with premises not designed for the food trade and lacking space for accommodating equipment required by the Regulations.

In two cases temporary certificates of exemption were issued to enable structural alterations to be made to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

During the year 120 inspections were made as a result of which the defects found were remedied, or additional equipment was installed in the following categories of premises:-

Grocery and provisions.....	5
Confectioners.....	2
Canteens.....	4
Greengrocers.....	1
Licensed premises.....	3
Restaurants and cafes.....	3
Bakers and confectioners.....	3
Fish shops.....	3
Butchers.....	4

(e) Condemned Food

Arising out of inspection and subsequent condemnation the following foodstuffs were surrendered by the owners. With the exception of raw fish and meat which, after staining, were allowed to be used by soap manufacturers, the other food was disposed of on the refuse tip.

Meat

(1) Fresh

Hind quarter of beef weighing 137 lbs.

(2) Tinned

Corned beef - 2 - 6lb tins.  
Pork luncheon meat - 4- 3lb.5oz.tins.  
Luncheon meat - 1 tin.  
New Zealand minced pork - 15 cartons each average 37 lbs.  
Danish pork and beef luncheon meat - 1 - 4lb tin.  
Jellied veal - 1 - 6lb tin.

Fowl.

Turkey - 1 weighing 16lbs.

Fish.

Cod fillets - 3 boxes - 2 stone each.  
Dog fish - 6 stone  
Smoked kippers - 3 boxes - 14 lbs each.

Vegetables.

Potatoes - 130 lbs.

Fruit (Canned)

Peeled tomatoes - 83 - 8oz. tins.  
Cherries - 3 tins.  
Strawberries - 1 tin.

Cereal.

Spaghetti - 1 tin....

(f) Ice Cream.

No ice cream is manufactured in the district and local vendors continued for the most part to obtain their supplies from large and reputable producers. Six samples were taken and upon examination were graded as follows:-

Grade I .....	3 samples
Grade II.....	2 "
Grade III.....	1 "

Rodent Control.

The Council's part-time Rodent Operative dealt with 43 private residences and three sets of business premises.

### Atmospheric Pollution.

Although the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, did not come into operation during the year, some consideration was given to the discharge of smoke from the local hospital. Representations were made and the hospital authorities agreed that there was cause for complaint and suggested that the trouble arose from inexperienced staff. They promised improvement and the matter is being kept under observation.

### Factories.

Special attention was given to a new factory from whose cellulose spraying booth objectionable fumes were emitted. As the result of representations from the Council additional washing plant for the fumes was installed.

More sanitary accommodation was also provided in a factory which, because of expansion, had engaged additional staff.

### Inspections.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	5	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	18	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	7	4	-	-
Total ...	46	27	-	-

## H A R L O W      U R B A N      D I S T R I C T

## I. Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

### General Data.

Area (in acres).....	6,313
Resident population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate).....	29,830
Number of occupied houses (mid-year).....	9,646
Number of houses per acre (average).....	1.5
Number of persons per acre (average).....	4.7
Number of persons per house (average).....	3.1
Rateable value (mid-year, 1956).....	£380,150
Product of a penny rate (financial year 1956/57).....	£1,625
The rate in the pound (financial year 1956/57)...	17/-

Births.

ths.				M.	F.
(a) <u>Live Births</u>	...	...	Legitimate	505	455
			Illegitimate	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>
			Total:-	520	462

Crude rate.....	per 1,000 population	32.9
Adjusted rate.....	" " "	21.7
England and Wales....	" " "	15.7

(b) <u>Stillbirths</u>	...	...	Legitimate	11	10
			Illegitimate	-	-
			Total:-	11	10

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	20.9
" " " " " England and Wales.	23.0

<u>Deaths.</u>	M.	F.
----------------	----	----

(a) <u>All ages</u> .....	<u>76</u>	<u>71</u>
---------------------------	-----------	-----------

Crude rate .....per 1,000 population.	5.0
Adjusted rate....." " "	11.8
England and Wales.. " " "	11.7

(b) <u>Infants under 1 year of age</u> .....		
--	--	--

Legitimate.....	12	11
Illegitimate.....	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total:-	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	23.4
" " " England and Wales.....	23.8

(c) <u>Infants under 4 weeks of age</u> .....		
---	--	--

Legitimate.....	9	6
Illegitimate.....	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total:-	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>

Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	15.3
" " " England and Wales.....	16.9

# Causes of Death.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All Causes.....	76	71	147
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough.....	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.....	-	1	1
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8. Measles.....	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	2	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	5	-	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	5	5	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	2	2
16. Diabetes.....	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	5	10	15
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	15	11	26
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	-	2	2
20. Other heart disease.....	6	8	14
21. Other circulatory disease.....	3	1	4
22. Influenza.....	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia.....	3	6	9
24. Bronchitis.....	6	2	8
25. Other disease of respiratory system.....	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.....	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	2	2	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	11	12	23
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	4	-	4
34. All other accidents.....	3	3	6
35. Suicides.....	2	-	2
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-

	Notifications according to age groups												Incidence rate per 100,000 population	
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Age unknown	Harlow	England & Wales
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	9	30.2	74.1
Whooping cough	10	6	3	6	11	31	6	-	-	-	-	2	251.4	206.8
Poliomyelitis - paralytic	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	3.8
non - paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3.3	3.3
Measles	7	23	31	28	35	215	4	-	-	-	-	-	1149.8	359.2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.1
Dysentery	7	17	11	6	8	28	3	2	22	2	1	-	358.7	109.7
Meningococcal infection	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	2.6
Acute pneumonia	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	56.9
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	9.8
Food poisoning	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	1	3	1	2	-	36.8	24.7
Infective hepatitis	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	-	2	-	-	-	30.2	
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	6.7	

N.B. The incidence rate of infective hepatitis and puerperal pyrexia for England and Wales are not available.

Communicable Diseases - Tuberculosis.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of cases on the register at 1st January, 1956.....	41	51	3	6	101
Number of cases added to the register during 1956:-					
New cases.....	4	9	-	1	14
Inward transfers.....	41	34	5	1	81
Number of cases removed from register during 1956:-					
* Deaths .....	1	1	-	-	2
Outward transfers.....	3	2	-	1	6
Patients cured.....	3	1	-	-	4
Diagnosis amended.....	2	2	-	-	4
Number of cases remaining on the register at 31.12.56.....	77	88	8	7	180

\* One death was from causes other than tuberculosis.

Table showing the monthly number of new claims for  
sickness benefit submitted to the Harlow Office of the Ministry  
of Pensions and National Insurance

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<u>Month</u>	<u>Claims</u>
January.....	558
February.....	531
March.....	418
April.....	278
May.....	341
June.....	259
July.....	265
August.....	211
September.....	282
October.....	418
November.....	332
December.....	294

## II. Sanitary Circumstances.

The Chief Public Health Inspector reports as follows:-

### Water.

The main water supply to the whole of the district was adequate in quantity and of a high standard of chemical and bacterial purity. There were eleven wells still in use and water from these was also satisfactory.

The following information was obtained from the General Manager, Herts & Essex Water Company, the statutory water undertakers in the area:-

Water supplied unmeasured (domestic)	...	...	277,425,000	gallons
" " by meter (trade)	...	...	188,917,000	"
Total consumption for year	...	...	466,342,000	"
Average consumption per day (domestic)	...	...	758,000	"
" " " " (trade)	...	...	516,000	"
Average daily consumption (all purposes)	...	...	1,274,000	"
Consumption per head per day (domestic)	...	...	23.36	"
" " " " " (trade)	...	...	15.91	"
" " " " " (all purposes)	...	...	39.27	"

9.8 miles of trunk and distribution mains from 3" to 18" in diameter were laid bringing the total length of mains within the district to 65.01 miles.

The Company have allocated contracts and work is proceeding on stage 2 of their capital works programme to secure further bulk water for the development of Harlow. This involves the construction of three new bores and pumping stations at Thundridge, the extension of the re-pumping station at Hadham and a new 21" diameter trunk main from Hadham to the reservoir at Rye Hill. These new works should ensure adequate supplies for the completion of the New Town provided that there is no excessive demand for water by industry and trade.

During the year 69 samples of water were submitted by the Company to the County Public Health Laboratories for examination. In every case the analysts reported wholesome water of a high standard of bacterial purity.

Nine samples of water were submitted by the Local Authority for chemical and bacteriological examination. They were taken from the following sources:-

Main supply	...	...	1
Watercress beds	...	...	5
Wells	...	...	2
River	...	...	1

Three complaints about water were received during the year, two of them

concerning the main supply. All were disposed of satisfactorily. Thirty-eight visits were made to premises in connection with water supplies.

#### Sewerage.

Sewerage of the town was adequate with the exception of the Latton Street, Kingsmoor Road and Harlow Road areas which were in existence before the construction of the new town.

The Harlow Council considered the provision of sewers in these parts of the district and resolved to start with the laying of a sewer in Latton Street. By the end of the year, however, the Minister's approval for the work had not yet been received.

Property owners in Little Parndon and Hare Street were able to connect to sewers which were provided in those areas by the Harlow Development Corporation and the Harlow Urban District Council respectively.

Much of the sewage was carried to the Rye Meads disposal works which are under the control of the Harlow Development Corporation, but the old disposal works at Harlow and at Burnt Mill were still in operation.

The Council continued to carry out the emptying of cesspools and pail closets in the district.

During the year twelve statutory notices were served upon owners of property for the conversion of pail closets to the water carriage system and for the connection of the premises to the sewer.

#### Rivers and Streams.

The section of the river Stort which runs along the northern end of the district receives effluents from the sewage disposal works situated at Netteswell and Harlow. The condition of the water is similar to that of most rivers in the country.

#### Public Conveniences.

Public conveniences are provided and maintained by the Council and are situated at London Road, The Stow, The High and Potter Street.

#### Public Cleansing.

The Engineer and Surveyor of the Council submits the following information concerning the collection and disposal of refuse:-

Refuse is collected weekly from all residential properties in the town and trade refuse from shops and business premises as frequently as necessary. For the latter service the Council makes a charge on an agreed basis.

The Council's plant is composed almost entirely of completely enclosed diesel engine, large capacity, hydraulically compressed refuse collectors.

Disposal is by controlled tipping at Redricks Lane, in the Urban District of Sawbridgeworth where the Council operates an International Drott Skid Shovel B6K3. Refuse from the Urban Districts of Waltham Holy Cross, Sawbridgeworth and Epping as well as from part of the Epping & Ongar Rural District, is also tipped there against payment to the Harlow Council. The capacity of the tip is such that facilities for refuse disposal will be available there for approximately another ten years. The total amount of refuse disposed of in 1956 was in the region of 12,600 tons.

## Housing.

### General.

Number of occupied houses (as at 31.12.56.).....	10,384
" " houses owned by the Local Authority.....	984
" " " " " Harlow Development Corp....	8,282
" " " privately owned.....	1,118
" " housing inspections.....	453
" " intimation notices served.....	9
" " housing defects remedied.....	25
" " houses erected by Local Authority.....	10
" " " " " private enterprise.....	101
" " houses & flats erected by Harlow Development C.	1,414
" " cases of legal proceedings.....	Nil

### Housing Act, 1936.

Houses demolished.....	34
Undertakings not to let.....	Nil
Closing orders.....	4
Houses in confirmed clearance areas awaiting demolition.	8
Houses in clearance areas not yet confirmed.....	Nil
Demolition orders made under section 11.....	6

### Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants.

Number of inquiries.....	13
" " applications considered by Local Authority....	6
" " applications approved.....	5
" " dwelling units provided.....	11
" " applications refused by Local Authority.....	1

## Food.

The total number of food premises in the area was 219. Their particulars are set out below:-

Shops - Grocer.....	46
Baker.....	8
Butcher.....	19
Fishmonger (includes 5 fish fryers).....	11
Greengrocer.....	15
Sweets and confectionery.....	14
Mobile Shops:-	
Grocer.....	2
Greengrocer.....	4
"Hot dogs" .....	1
Cafes.....	7
Restaurants.....	3
Public houses.....	23
Off-licences.....	3
Halls and community centres.....	4
Factory canteens.....	13
School canteens.....	16
Building site canteens.....	9
Food storage depots.....	2
Food factory.....	1
Bakehouses.....	3
Market stalls.....	15

During the period under review 2232 visits were made to premises where food was prepared, stored or sold, and in the course of these inspections advice was given on the hygiene of food handling and storage. Details of the visits are given below:-

Factory canteens.....	47
School canteens.....	85
Building site canteens.....	97
Public houses.....	113
Shops.....	1448
Mobile shops and barrows.....	217
Restaurants and cafes.....	104
Bakehouses.....	61
Market - (operating from 19.5.56.).....	60

Informal or formal action resulting from the inspections was taken as follows:-

Number of intimation notices served.....	60
Legal proceedings.....	3
Food submitted to analyst for examination.....	1

The following are particulars of foodstuffs which, on inspection, were found to be unsound:-

	lbs.	ozs.
Canned meat.....	334	11
fish.....		2
milk.....	8	2
fruit.....	37	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
vegetables.....	35	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
orange juice.....	1	-
soup.....		15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish - wet.....	179	8
Fruit.....	50	-
Meat.....	254	-
Total:-	900	14 $\frac{1}{2}$

### Watercress

The conditions under which watercress was grown received attention during the year and five samples of water were taken from various parts of the beds and submitted for bacteriological examination. The result of this showed slight pollution believed to be of avian origin.

Water from the springs which feed the beds proved to be of high bacterial purity.

General measures were taken to prevent pollution of the beds and rough chlorination was carried out before the cutting of the watercress.

The growing of watercress continues to be kept under constant supervision.

### Food & Drugs Act, 1955, section 16. Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954. Registered Premises.

Fifty-five premises are registered under the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954, particulars of which are set out below. There were no premises registered under any local act.

	<u>No. of premises registered</u>	<u>No. of inspection carried out.</u>
Storage and sale of ice cream ...	37	156
Preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.	14	756
Dairies ... ..	4	22
	<u>55</u>	<u>934</u>

Essex County Council Act, 1952, section 103.  
Hawkers of Food.

Seven persons are registered as hawkers of food under the provisions of section 103 of the Essex County Council Act. No lock-up premises were used for the storage of food which would have required registration under this Act.

Slaughterhouses.

There were no slaughterhouses operating in the district.

Shops

There was close co-operation with the Harlow Development Corporation in all matters connected with the Food & Drugs and the Shops Acts and all the Council's requirements under these acts were incorporated in the plans of new shops which were to be erected.

Milk Supply.

Forty-four licences under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949-1954, were issued during the year. The details of these are set out below:-

	<u>Supplementary</u>	<u>Dealer</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pasteurised.....	15	3	18
Sterilised.....	15	3	18
Tuberculin tested....	6	2	8
	<u>36</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>44</u>

Number of premises from which milk is sold..... 20

Number of samples of milk taken during the year:-

Pasteurised.....	20
Sterilised.....	4
Tuberculin tested.....	<u>5</u> 29

One sample of pasteurised milk was reported to be unsatisfactory and the matter was taken up with the supplier.

Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered for sale of ice-cream.....	37
Number of samples of ice-cream taken during the year....	11
Number of samples of ice-lolly taken during the year....	1

The ice lolly sample was reported to be satisfactory, and the ice-cream samples were each placed in Grade I of the Ministry of Health's Provisional Grades.

## Rodent Control.

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

A Rodent Operative is employed on a part-time basis by the Council and details of this work during the year are as follows:-

Number of properties inspected.....	124
Number of inspections.....	683
Number of infestations:-	
rats - major .....	1
rats - minor .....	73
mice only .....	<u>31</u> 105
Number of complaints received.....	124
Number of contracts entered into.....	28
Number of infestations treated by the Council.....	104

The policy of the Council is to treat all infested dwellings free of charge. Occupiers of other types of properties can enter into contract with the Council who carry out the work at an economic charge.

### Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Two licences for the keeping of pet shops in the district were issued under the provisions of the above-named act. Inspections of the premises were made from time to time to ascertain that the conditions of licence were complied with.

### Inspection of Factories.

#### Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

##### 1 - Inspections.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1.2.3.4.&.6. are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	15	36	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	83	111	4	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).....	<u>12</u> <u>110</u>	<u>16</u> <u>163</u>	<u>-</u> <u>4</u>	<u>-</u> <u>-</u>

## 2 - Cases where defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>		<u>No. of Prosecutions.</u>
			<u>to H.M. Inspector.</u>	<u>by H.M. Inspector.</u>	
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):-					
(a) Insufficient...	2	-	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>

## 3 - Outwork.

Fifty outworkers were on the register at 31st December, 1956, and were engaged mainly on work in connection with wearing apparel.

## Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades were carried on in the district.

## Summary of other matters dealt with.

### (a) Inspections - General.

Complaints investigated and action taken.....	100
Inspection of schools (excluding school canteens).....	15
Inspection of establishments for massage or special treatment.....	4
Inspection of hairdresser establishments.....	45
Inspection of shops, other than food shops.....	76
Visits in connection with investigation of infectious disease.....	531
Visits in connection with investigation of smoke nuisance	13

### (b) Summary of Legal Proceedings.

During the year legal proceedings were taken against three firms. Each case was heard at the Harlow Magistrates Court. Details are as follows:-

<u>Offence</u>	<u>Result</u>
Sale of orange drink containing straw and other extraneous matter contrary to section 2 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 .....	Fine of £10. with £5. 5. 0. costs.
Nail in a sausage contrary to section 2 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 .....	Fine of £10. with £5. 5. 0. costs.
Alleged sale of decomposed sausage roll....	Case dismissed.

# E P P I N G   &   O N G A R   R U R A L   D I S T R I C T

## I. Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

### General Data.

Area (in acres).....	76,007
Resident population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate).....	32,280
Number of occupied houses (mid-year).....	10,063
Number of houses per acre (average).....	0.1
Number of persons per acre (average).....	0.4
Number of persons per house (average).....	3.2
Rateable value (mid-year, 1956).....	£314,661
Product of a penny rate (financial year 1956/57).....	£1,340
The rate in the pound (financial year 1956/57)	16/2½

### Births.

	M.	F.
(a) <u>Live Births</u> .....		
Legitimate ...	319	228
Illegitimate...	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>
Total:-	<u>333</u>	<u>244</u>
Crude rate ..... per 1,000 population..	17.9	
Adjusted rate..... " " " ...	18.8	
England and Wales.... " " " ...	15.7	
(b) <u>Stillbirths</u> .....		
Legitimate ...	5	7
Illegitimate...	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total:-	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births..	20.4	
" " " " " England and Wales.	23.0	

Deaths. M. F.

(a) All ages ..... 163 150

Crude rate..... per 1,000 population. 9.7

Adjusted rate..... " " " " 9.9

England and Wales.... " " " " 11.7

(b) Infants under 1 year of age.

Legitimate..... - 3

Illegitimate..... 1 -

Total:- 1 3

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births. 6.9

" " " England and Wales..... 13.8

(c) Infants under 4 weeks of age

Legitimate..... - 3

Illegitimate..... 1 -

Total:- 1 3

Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births 6.9

" " " England and Wales.... 16.9

Causes of Death

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes.....	163	150	313
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough.....	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8. Measles.....	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	1	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	4	4	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	12	2	14
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	7	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	16	12	28
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	1	1	2
16. Diabetes.....	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	20	21	41
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	31	15	46
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	3	1	4
20. Other heart disease.....	21	29	50
21. Other circulatory disease.....	9	13	22
22. Influenza.....	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia.....	8	11	19
24. Bronchitis.....	9	5	14
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	1	3	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	-	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	2	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	4	-	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	-	3	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	13	17	30
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	2	-	2
34. All other accidents.....	1	2	3
35. Suicides.....	3	1	4
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-

Communicable Diseases (except Tuberculosis)

	Notifications according to age groups													Incidence rate per 100,000 population	
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Age unknown	16 to 65	Epping & Ongar	England & Wales
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	5	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	9	27.9	74.1
Whooping cough	5	3	4	10	12	43	4	-	1	-	-	2	84	262.2	206.8
Polio-myelitis - paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3.1	3.8
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3.1	3.3
non - paralytic	-	2	3	3	7	27	3	-	-	-	-	-	45	139.4	359.2
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.1
Diphtheria	1	3	4	3	-	18	4	-	8	-	-	-	41	127.0	109.7
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2.6
Meningococcal infection	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	1	10	31.0	56.9
Acute pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	6	18.6	9.8
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	1	1	8	24.8	24.7
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	4	12.4	
Infective hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Puerperal pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

N.B. The incidence rates of infective hepatitis and puerperal pyrexia for England and Wales are not available.

Communicable Diseases - Tuberculosis

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Number of cases on the register at 31.12.55.....	50	30	13	16	109
Number of cases added to the register during 1956:-					
New cases.....	1	4	2	1	8
Inward transfers.....	15	20	4	-	39
Number of cases removed from the register during 1956:-					
Deaths.....	1	1	-	-	2
Outward transfers.....	7	2	1	2	12
Patients cured.....	3	1	-	2	6
Diagnosis amended.....	3	1	-	-	4
Number of cases remaining on the register at 31.12.56.....	52	49	18	13	132

## II. Sanitary Circumstances.

The Chief Public Health Inspector reports as follows:-

### Water

Total number of premises with supply from the mains.... 9,069  
Total population served..... 29,476

Mains extensions carried out in 1956:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Size of Main</u>			
	3"	4"	6"	9"
Chipping Ongar.....	102	821	292	-
High Ongar.....	8	-	124	-
Nazeing.....	111	834	378	-
North Weald.....	124	169	-	-
Roydon.....	186	319	-	-
Sheering.....	3	43	-	-
Stapleford Tawney.....	-	-	-	950
Stapleford Abbots.....	6	-	760	-
Stanford Rivers.....	-	809	3	2303
Theydon Bois.....	154	2281	-	573
Length laid in yards.....	694	5276	1557	3826

Dwellings connected during 1956:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Number of new connections.</u>
Abbees, Berners & Beauchamp Roding.....	2
Chipping Ongar.....	10
Fyfield.....	2
Greensted.....	2
High Ongar.....	10
Kelvedon Hatch.....	3
Epping Upland.....	10
Lambourne.....	60
Navestock.....	2
Nazeing.....	70
North Weald.....	80
Roydon.....	11
Sheering.....	28
Shelley.....	47
Stanford Rivers.....	4
Stapleford Abbots.....	9
Stondon Massey.....	10
Theydon Bois.....	51
Theydon Mount.....	2
Total:-	<u>413</u>

Both the quality and quantity of the main water supply were generally satisfactory.

During the year under review adequate bacteriological examinations of raw and treated water were undertaken by the Herts and Essex Water Company. In addition the Council's Public Health Inspectors took four routine samples and seven other samples following receipt of complaints. These, upon investigation, were found to have arisen from maintenance operations by the Water Company.

Three samples of well water were submitted for examination and all were unsatisfactory. In each case remedial measures of the obvious faults secured improvement in subsequent examinations.

### Sewerage.

The Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following information about sewerage:-

General provision in the area.

Sewers. The following parishes are provided with sewers:-

Abbess Roding	Matching (part)
Chipping Ongar	North Weald
High Ongar	Nazeing.
Lambourne (part)	Roydon.
Shelley	Sheering.
Stanford Rivers	Theydon Bois
Epping Upland	

Cesspools. A cesspool emptying service is operated by the Council in the following parishes:-

Matching	Roydon
North Weald	Sheering
Nazeing	Epping Upland
Theydon Bois	

Approximately 450 cesspools are emptied annually.

Pail Closets Pail closets in the following parishes were emptied by the Council:-

North Weald (part)	Roydon
Matching	Epping Upland (part)
Sheering	Nazeing.

Approximately 500 pail closets were emptied each week.

## New Sewers

Schemes for the sewerage of the following parishes were prepared and submitted to the Ministry:-

Matching Green and Beauchamp Roding.  
Stapleford Abbotts.  
Moreton.

Schemes for the following parishes were in the course of preparation:-

Fyfield/Willingale  
Kelvedon Hatch

### Blackmore and Doddington Sewerage Scheme.

In September, 1956, the Minister of Housing and Local Government advised that he was prepared to authorise the commencement of work on Part I of this Scheme in April, 1957, and to issue loan consent on that basis. The early completion of the scheme is an urgent necessity.

### New connections to existing sewers.

During the year under review eighteen new connections to sewers were made.

### Sewage disposal.

The sewage disposal works at Stanford Rivers and Abridge, together with the several disposal plants serving Council housing sites were satisfactorily maintained.

## Public Conveniences.

### Chipping Ongar:

Pending sanction by the Minister of Housing and Local Government for the provision of a combined car park and public convenience, the sanitary accommodation at the licensed premises in the High Street was, by a financial arrangement with the licensee, kept open for the use of the public at all hours. This arrangement as a temporary expedient had much to commend it. The licensee was responsible for cleansing and maintenance, and no complaints were received.

### Abridge.

This centre of population is a bus terminus and is much frequented by the public during the summer months. Sanitary accommodation situated on the forecourt of the Blue Boar Public House was kept open outside licensing hours and was maintained by the Council under a financial arrangement with the Brewery Company.

## Public Cleansing.

This service is under the control of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

### Refuse Collection.

The refuse collection service covers the whole area. Fourteen parishes have a weekly service, thirteen a fortnightly service and the remaining six parishes every third week.

### Disposal

There are five disposal sites all of which are of a "controlled" tipping type.

### Plant.

Six vehicles are in service with one vehicle in reserve. The fleet is being modernised and during the year one new "Paxit" and one new side-loader were purchased.

### Staff

The staff comprises twenty-four men.

## Housing.

### General.

Number of occupied houses (as at 31.12.56.).....	10,134
Number of houses owned by the Local Authority.....	2,316
"      "      "      privately owned.....	7,818
"      "      houses & shops combined (included in above)	157
"      "      housing inspections.....	395
"      "      intimation notices served.....	96
"      "      statutory notices served.....	10
"      "      housing defects remedied.....	77
"      "      houses completed by the Local Authority ,	
during the year.....	36
Number of houses completed by private enterprise	
during the year.....	159

### Housing Act, 1936 - Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954.

Houses demolished.....	17
Undertakings not to let.....	3
Closing orders.....	1
Houses in confirmed clearance areas awaiting	
demolition.....	19
Houses in clearance areas not yet confirmed.....	17
Demolition Orders under Section 11.....	14
Undertakings cancelled and demolition orders	
revoked.....	9

## Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants.

During the year under review 33 improvement grants were made. Fifty-four schedules of disrepair and of necessary works required to ensure compliance with the prescribed standard were prepared in respect of eight<sup>ty-eight</sup> premises.

### Movable Dwellings.

In 1956 fifteen applications were received for licences under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Fourteen licences were granted and one refused.

### Glen Faba and Riverfields Estate, Roydon.

Following local public inquiries held in October and November, 1948, to reach a decision as to whether he ought to issue directions for securing the removal of the existing shack development by the use of enforcement powers provided by section 100 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, the Minister of Town and Country Planning decided that not only land occupied by the estate ought to be restricted against further development but that the whole site should be progressively cleared of existing buildings. He was of the opinion that acquisition and preparation of an alternative site should be undertaken as soon as possible and that the aim should be to complete transfer from, and clearance of, the estate within five years.

With due regard to the undoubted difficulties presented to the respective authorities by this decision, the fact remains that no progress whatever has been made, and indeed the position has gravely deteriorated because the number of families in permanent occupation has more than doubled since the inquiry was held.

Life in insanitary and overcrowded shacks, the absence of piped water, and the disposal of sewage by conservancy methods on gardens of inadequate size in the vicinity of shallow wells which are used for drinking and domestic purposes, constitutes a serious health hazard.

## Inspection of Food.

### General

The number and type of food premises in the district was as follows:-

Grocery, provisions, and general stores.....	97
Restaurants and cafes.....	51
Bakers.....	8
Greengrocers.....	8
Fishmongers.....	5
Butchers.....	16
Dairies.....	6
Licensed premises.....	81

Total:- 272

	<u>Visits</u>	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>
Shops.....	126	97	78
Restaurants and cafes.....	41	35	27
Licensed premises.....	28	27	21

One hundred and thirty-five food premises are registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Ice cream.....	121 premises
Manufacture of sausages etc.	14 "

One hundred and forty-eight inspections were made of these premises.

Essex County Council Act, 1952 section 103.  
Hawkers of Food.

Two persons are registered as hawkers of food under the provisions of section 103 of the Essex County Council Act.

### Milk

Six dairies in the district are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Eighteen registered distributors of milk operate in the same area.

The following licences were granted during the year under review in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949:-

	<u>Supplementary Licences</u>	<u>Dealers' Licences</u>
Pasteurised.....	11	6
Sterilised.....	13	10
Tuberculin tested.....	11	7
Total:-	35	23

Six samples of milk were taken - five pasteurised and one tuberculin tested - all of which were satisfactory.

### Ice Cream.

One hundred and twenty-one premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. During the period under review five samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. As a result of such examination all were classified as Grade I.

Four samples of ice lolly were also examined and all of them were found to be satisfactory.

## Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-1956.

Before the appointed day all food premises were given an abstract of the Regulations and other relevant information. Despite this and the publicity in the appropriate trade journals it was unusual to find compliance with the Regulations in detail. This criticism applies also to the School Canteens. In all cases appropriate action was taken.

### Meat and Other Foods.

#### Slaughtering and meat inspection.

There are seven licensed slaughterhouses in the area and twenty-one licensed slaughtermen are on the register.

Two slaughterhouses are approved as ordinary deadweight certification centres for pigs.

The following table relates to carcasses inspected and condemned.

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>excl.</u> <u>cows.</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed.....	1195	327	1036	14376	4605
Number inspected.....	1195	327	1028	11604	4085
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis</u> <u>and cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	1	-	2	11	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	249	94	6	1242	302
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease.	20.9	28.8	0.8	10.8	7.5
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	3	7	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	11	35	-	-	55
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	1.2	12.8	-	-	1.4
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	3	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	3	-	-	-	-
Carcasses totally condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-

Total weight of meat condemned:- 8 tons 3 cwt 2 qtrs 8 lbs.

Surrender of other unsound food.

	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qtrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Canned meat.....	-	1	2	-
" milk.....	-	-	2	-
" fruit.....	-	-	1	14
" vegetables.....	-	-	4	3
" fish.....	-	-	-	6
Fresh meat.....	2	-	6	-
Total:-	2	1	16	7

Rodent Control.

(Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949)

One full time Rodent Operative is employed. The work of rodent control during the year ended 31st December, 1956 is detailed below:-

	<u>Local</u> <u>Author-</u> <u>ity</u>	<u>Dwelling</u> <u>houses</u> <u>including</u> <u>Council</u> <u>houses</u>	<u>Agri-</u> <u>cultural</u>	<u>All others</u> <u>including</u> <u>Business</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification.....	-	196	9	18	223
(b) Survey.....	34	260	49	50	393
(c) Otherwise.....	-	1052	47	201	1300
No. of properties found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats - Major....	-	-	1	-	1
Minor... 17	17	188	8	20	233
(b) Mice - Major....	-	5	-	1	6
Minor... 5	5	20	-	3	28
No. of infested properties treated by Local Authority	22	213	9	24	268
No. of Notices served under Section 4:-					
(a) Treatment.....	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural work..	-	-	-	-	-

Number of block controls: 39

Test baiting and maintenance treatments of the Council's sewerage systems were carried out twice during the year. A total of 333 manholes were baited and of these 75 (22%) showed partial prebait take and 12 (4%) showed a complete prebait take.

### Petroleum Acts and Orders.

Number of operative licences authorising storage....	147
Number of visits in connection with petroleum installations.....	52

### Inspection of Factories.

(Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948)

#### Inspections.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4.&.6. are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	10	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	75	88	4	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
Total:-	<u>81</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>

#### Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>		<u>No. of Prosecutions</u>
			<u>To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>	
Want of cleanliness	-	1	-	1	-
Insufficient sanitary conveniences.....	-	2	-	2	-
Total:-	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>

### Outwork.

The following outworkers were on the register at the end of the year:-

<u>Nature of Work.</u>	<u>No. of Outworkers.</u>
Wearing apparel, making, etc.....	66
Making of boxes.....	1
Brush making.....	2
Total:-	<u>69</u>

### Offensive Trades.

#### Fat Factory, Stapleford Abbotts.

In order to enable the owner to improve his factory and methods of operation and to ensure compliance with existing byelaws, planning permission without time limit was granted to him on 31st July, 1956. Prior to that, however, a summons was issued for his failure to comply with byelaws relating to the emission of noxious vapours. This had such good effect that the necessary work was sufficiently advanced to warrant the adjournment of the proceedings. The factory requires continuous supervision.

### Summary of Inspections.

#### Public Health Act, 1936.

Water supplies.....	115
Sewerage and drainage.....	466
Piggeries.....	32
Movable dwellings.....	34
Movable dwelling sites.....	17
Provision of dustbins.....	584
Offensive trades.....	50
Nuisances.....	152
Re-inspections to secure abatement of nuisances	131
Enquiries in cases of infectious diseases.....	213

#### Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Slaughterhouses.....	1165
Bakehouses.....	10
Fish shops.....	9
Ice cream premises.....	92
Dairies.....	16
Butchers Shops.....	15
Food shops.....	102
Restaurant kitchens.....	20
Canteens (including school canteens).....	21
Licensed premises.....	28

Housing.

No. of houses inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936 ...	202
No. of re-inspections.....	251
No. of houses inspected under the Housing Acts, 1936-1954....	193
No. of re-inspections.....	129
No. of visits to houses in connection with improvement grants	178

Miscellaneous.

Factory inspections.....	98
Factories Act, 1937 - section 34.....	5
Public Conveniences.....	20
National Assistance Act, 1948, - section 50.....	11
Unclassified.....	38

